

CORURGAN COMMENT

Circ. No 9 – 2024
September 2024



What happened.....

Welcome to the September 2024 Corurgan Comment.

Thank you to all the Members that attended the AGM on August 27th, it was great to see so many people in attendance. I have received really good feedback from the members that were there, the Board and I will continue to work on the topics that we discussed. We will keep you informed once we have more information.

The New Rules for our Corporation are nearly finalised, we will be making them available for you to review as soon as possible. We will need to call a General Meeting to adopt the New Rules, we are investigating whether we can conduct the vote via the post or electronically, but it will be compulsory for all eligible voting Members to vote on adopting the Rules that we have been working on. **If we do not get two thirds of eligible voting Members to endorse our Rules, then the government rules will become our Rules on the 1st March 2025.**

Allocation Announcement- (44%)

On the 15th August we received a 2% increase in allocation taking us to 44% AWD. There was no increase on the 1st September.

Current Dam Levels

Dartmouth Dam – 95%

Hume Dam - 73%

Maintenance

We are now into general maintenance season, fixing leaks, de-silting and removing weeds.

Spraying of access and around wheels

We have Installed a new motor and VSD for Pump 1 at Corowa Pump site, we still need to complete the wiring and cabling of the VSD.

There is currently high demand for irrigation water, and most Laterals have water in them.

Now is a good time to fill your Stock and Domestic dams, rather than waiting until later in the year and having to re-fill Laterals, lets try and be as efficient as we can with the water we have.

Please ring your Channel Attendant or the Office to let us know if you are filling a dam.

Please contact the Office or your Channel Attendant, if you need any assistance with any water related or maintenance matters.

**Peter Hamilton
General Manager**

Office Administration

AGM

FANTASTIC!!

If you didn't go to the AGM, you missed the social event of the year. The Oaklands RSL was packed! Packed!

Thank you to all those Members who attended.

Your attendance, your questions, and your engagement indicated the Member's support to the Board, which was truly appreciated. The positive feedback on the Board's thoughts and possible direction was great.

No-one wants to pay higher fees, but to recognise that this may be the best way forward for West Corurgan and to even have a few Members willing to advocate for that increase, was fantastic! For the Board to know that Members do care and do want a future, and a viable Scheme, even if they might have to pay more for it, was heartening.

AND

I finally met two of our lovely lady farmers who I have spoken to many times over the past 8-years but have never met. I am so glad Sarah Smith and Denice Johnson attended. Now I have a face to put with their names. But they weren't the only ladies in attendance. Great to see Chantelle Gorman, one of our younger lady farmers, and Christine Gorman making sure they are informed on the direction WCPID is taking. And Jan Hill. She is smart. Attending with Peter ensure she knows what is going on and has a free night out. 😊

Thank you to the ladies handling the catering.

We were much later finishing than I had told them to expect and then I was worried if I had catered for enough people. But they took it all in their stride and served a lovely meal.

[Just so you know, Michael Hawkins prefers Sticky Date Pudding to Pavlova].

Thank you to the bar staff. They got slammed immediately after the meeting, due to our great numbers (did I mention our great numbers), but again they handled things with ease. Thank you, as I know a few Members (and a couple of Directors) did stay late catching up.



As soon as the Minutes are written-up and endorsed by the Board, I will forward a copy to everyone, but I can say, the AGM passed the Motion to engage Mogg Accounting and Advisory as our Auditors for 2024-2025.

Another AGM Thank you.

This is a bit left field, but Peter's gratitude knows no bounds.

When one leaves an AGM at 11.30pm at night, dark, small town, no-one around but for the fast-fading lights of a member's ute, it is not a good time to realise you have NO fuel!

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, Shaune Moloney.

I think Peter owes you one.... Or two!



Only a slight exaggeration – I did say packed!

Update: Accounts - Feasibility Study

Still no news on our Application for Funding, apart from the government asking for some more detail on a couple of points.

NEW MODEL RULES

The NEW MODEL RULES have been reviewed by Gerard McCarthy, Solicitor. I have to say he was fantastic and has completed a very comprehensive review. He has provided recommendations and reasons for those recommendations and also the reasons for the changes we will need to make.

An 18-page letter if you don't mind! Extraordinary time, effort & detail!

The next time you see Gerard, make sure you say, **THANK YOU.**

What happens now?

Peter & I have made the recommended changes from Gerard.

The New Model Rules Committee, comprising of the Chair and Deputy Chair, will review and then the Final Draft will be presented to the Board. Hopefully at the September 18th Board Meeting, but I am away prior to that, so possibly not.

Once endorsed by the Board, I will make sure the RULES are presented in a uniform fashion and will then forward a copy to all Members with an Explanatory Memorandum explaining the background and key points.

I hope to have the NEW RULES to all Member by the end of November.

Members will have 21-days to review.

I know it is harvest time. Stop deriding me. I know it is a terrible time to ask you to follow-up with ANYTHING, but we just don't have the time to wait until after Christmas.

After the 28-day review period, the vote to endorse the New Rules will then proceed.

The Board will be recommending Members adopt the New Model Rules.

Most of the New Rules are mandatory rules anyway, straight out of the Water Management Act, with only a few changes relating to time frames and clauses specific to West Corugan's Board or Members.

The Department has advised that the New Rules MUST be adopted by 1st March 2025.

If they are not adopted by 2/3 of the full-Member base, then the New Model Rules, **as provided by the Government**, without any of our own changes and without Gerard's recommendations, will be deemed to have been adopted.

In short: If we don't receive 2/3 acceptance, then the Government rules become our rules!

The exact mechanism for voting has not been determined yet, but I urge everyone to vote and accept the New Model Rules once the voting process is determined.

DON'T FORGET - TANKER WATER DELIVERIES

As we move into the start of the irrigation season, we will lose the ability to call on our three Water Bailiffs to help deliver tanker water if required.

That only leaves Brett and Tony.

As explained previously, we try to group together a few deliveries, so we have a full 'delivery day'.

Therefore, we request three-days' notice if you require a tanker load of water.

If we can provide sooner, we will, but the guys plan their work the previous day, so they may already be committed on the day you ring.



How good is our Irrigation System

One of the Consultants we used for our Director Training Day is currently in Egypt travelling towards the pyramids of Giza. Surprisingly he thought of us when he saw below.

It is a major irrigation channel running off the Nile River near Giza.
The major crop in the area is alfalfa.



I did some research.

The **Ibrahimiya Canal** is an irrigation canal in Egypt built in 1873.

This 350-kilometre-long canal used to take off from the [Nile](#) without any weirs or inlet works on the river (the water of the river entered it freely). Sir [William Willcocks](#), the famous British civil engineer, constructed the [Assiut Barrage](#) later in 1901 to provide means for better control of its discharge.

Although locks were constructed through its southern third, Ibrahimiya Canal is not navigable after [Dairut](#) as it was designed for irrigation purposes only. The Ibrahimiya, except at few locations where it follows portions of ancient canals, flows parallel to the [Nile](#), and does not have between itself and the river a distance of more than 4 to 5 kilometres.

After it leaves Al Sharahnah, the canal continues for about 140 kilometres but by the time it reaches [Al Ayat](#) in [Giza](#), it is no longer a major canal, but rather a small irrigation canal with a width of 5 metres at the bottom.

BE HAPPY 😊

What do you call a quick video-conference at the Mazda factory?
A zoom-zoom-zoom Zoom meeting.



The age old question.....



MEDIA STARS

Don't you just love GIRL POWER!
Another two Media Stars in our ranks.



We had Cameron Sandral a couple of months ago, and Geoff Moar is always talking to the media trying to educate everyone about water and the Murray Region, and now Chantelle & Christine Gorman. Yay, WCPID is punching above its weight.

The following Article is from The Weekly Times – 21.08.2024.

We could have had more media-star farmers, but our 'Windmill' members didn't take on any of my strategic business advice and decided not to plant spinach and then missed again when they passed on growing beetroot. Beetroot!

Beetroot is even in wine for goodness' sake! 😊 Not to mention in all the fancy restaurants. Lost opportunity. Never mind. Maybe they will take on board my next brilliant farming idea. 😊😊



Dry cues monster yarding

Steer prices hit 500c/kg live-weight at Wangaratta's feature store cattle sale last week as an influx of numbers failed to stop the market surging.

The Gordon Sinclair memorial feeder and weaner sale was swelled by another 1500 cattle than expected, bringing the total yarding to close to 5000.

Some were concerned the big increase would dampen the market, but a big field of bidders including key feedlot operators and commission buyers bid freely and consistently kept prices above 430c/kg for steers and more than 300c/kg for heifers.

Corcoran Parker auctioneer Justin Keane was one of the few who wasn't surprised by the strong prices though the lift was bigger than he thought.

"As a buyer, you have to go with the grass (as it is growing, not after it has grown)," he said.

Most drafts of steers, especially winter and spring 2023-drop weaners, were up to 100kg lighter than this time last year.

That was the case for Rob Ferguson from Bowmans Forest Pty Ltd at Bowmans Forest, whose draft of steers topped at 270kg, compared to 363kg last year.

But such was the depth of competition that he bettered his top price of \$1160 from last year with last week's draft.

The top 74, weighing 267-271kg, made \$1310 to re-

WANGARATTA

turn 491c/kg, with another 24 weighing 258kg selling for \$1220 (473c/kg) and 30 at 238kg making \$1090 or 458c/kg.

Mr Ferguson said it was a great result and a boost given the tough year and the challenges to get stock ready for the sale.

The best-presented pen was sold by Annette and Michelle Smith from Byawatha, with the 25 Angus, EU-accredited, making \$1490 and the second pen, at 337kg, selling for the same price, returning 433-442c/kg.

There were plenty of pens selling above 430c/kg and on occasions, 500c/kg was reached.

That included for a pen from the Gorman family's AMP Ag at Savernake, NSW, who sold 46 Angus, 270kg, for \$1350 or 500c/kg.

It was part of a draft of 155 sold by the Gormans, in a season which Chris Gorman said had proved tough.

Another pen to hit the 500c/kg mark was sold by S and E Cleal, with their pen of 29 Angus, 264kg, making \$1320 or a neat 500c/kg.

Competition didn't waver for heifers, with the large price gap between steers and heifers narrowing at Wangaratta.

A big draft of grown heifers offered by Kiamungie at Tocumwal, NSW, topped at \$1405



Chantelle and Chris Gorman from AMP Ag at Savernake, NSW, sold 270kg Angus weaner steers to a top of 500c/kg at the Wangaratta feature store cattle sale last week, where prices were firm, despite a large yarding. Report, Page 68
Picture: Fiona Myers

Murray Evans, Kiewa Valley

Attended the market to see how prices were tracking.

"The price per kilogram is OK but the cattle are not weighing like they did last year. At this time of year, I am usually in the market for cattle but I am not game to do it. Spring could come and go very quickly and I probably have more cattle than I need at the moment given the season."



Annette Smith, Byawatha

Won the best presented pen at the sale, for the tops of 50 Angus steers, 337-344kg, which made \$1490.

"It has been a tough season but we thought the steers looked good. We are relieved, to be honest, to have got the cattle here and to sell them. It's not the first time we've won the best pen but it's good in such a hard season to do it."



Chris Gorman, AMP Ag, Savernake, NSW

Sold 155 Angus steer and heifer weaners, to a top price of 500c/kg for a pen of 46 Angus, which weighed 270kg and made \$1350.

"It has been a hard year and we have been feeding hay and trying to find fresh paddocks for the weaners. They were weaned about 2½ months ago and are 10-11 months now. We have got through the season with these cattle and it is good to be rewarded for the hard work."



Justin Keane, Corcoran Parker, Wangaratta

Represented and sold clients' cattle at the sale.

"You can't really look at the cents-a-kilogram here, as the season has been so tough (where cattle have come from) that people are really buying on genetic merit, frame and no finish. The cattle here today are the same size as they would be any year, but just without the weight."



paid for a pen of 28 Angus weighing 401kg (350c/kg) and selling to commission buyer Andrew Lowe from Wagga Wagga. Heifer prices comfort-

ably sat above 300c/kg and on occasions came closer to 400c/kg including a pen from Bon Accord, with the 32 Angus, 279kg, making \$1055 to return

378c/kg. There was some local competition, but Anthony Delaney from Delaney Livestock at Pakenham had big orders for steers to head south, while Jed

Parker operated for a Scoon NSW buyer and Duncan Brown was buying for a Cooramble, NSW, account.

— FIONA MYERS

Whilst the West Corugan Newsletter is primarily provided to keep Members informed of all water matters relating to the WCPID Scheme, you will note it also has a lighter side. It is this lighter side that should be read in the spirit for which it is intended and with 'tongue firmly planted in one's cheek'! 😊 Debbie